

From: Representative Don Parsons

Legislation Passed by the Georgia House on Day 23 - February 18, 2016

HB 676 - entitled the "Accountability, Change Management, and Process Improvement Act of 2015" -, Sponsored by: Rep. Buzz Brockway , provides that all state agencies, boards, authorities, and commissions shall provide a written business case for every information technology project that exceeds \$1 million in value. This case should include a description of the project, its budget, an estimate of its operational impacts, an outline of its benefits to the citizens of Georgia, and the risk of not acting.

Further, HB 676 provides that all state agencies, boards, authorities, and commissions will provide a change management plan and resources necessary for plan execution for projects exceeding \$1 million, projects involving two or more agencies, or service delivery changes in existing programs that significantly change existing business practice. A change management plan is one that defines the activities and roles to manage and control change during the execution of a project to protect against cost and schedule overruns and poor quality.

HB 745, Sponsored by: Rep. Earl Ehrhart, extends the sunset from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2021 for provisions relating to state agencies and departments writing off small amounts due to the state as well as for provisions relating to non-lapsing revenue collected by the University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia. These provisions have been reauthorized previously and the current sunset was set in 2013.

This bill addresses the writing off of uncollectible accounts receivable of up to \$3000. Each USG and TCSG institution must comply with regulations concerning billing, collections, and write offs of uncollectible accounts. If an account is determined to be uncollectible and due diligence has occurred, a request may be made to the State Accounting Office to write off these accounts receivable. Approval from the State Accounting Office is required to write off uncollectable accounts.

Further, it addresses "carry forward provisions" that allow an entity the ability to move all or a portion of its unexpended revenues beyond the fiscal year for which was originally earned. Carry forward is intended to reduce incentives for budget managers to spend money at fiscal year-end (use it or lose it) in favor of a more rational and better planned approach that benefits state government, colleges, and students. Currently, carry forward is allowed for:

Tuition Funds: USG can carry forward up to 3% of annual tuition revenue (currently maintain a carry forward rate of 2.1%), while TCSG can carry forward up to 15%. ^{4/4}

Indirect Cost Recovery Funds: USG and TCSG can carry forward these funds from federal or sponsoring agencies. * Technology Fee: USG and TCSG can carry forward unspent technology fee funds. * Departmental Sales & Services: USG and TCSG can carry forward these funds in order to have continuity in existing programs/services and develop new programs/services throughout the cycle.

HB 772, sponsored by Rep. Dusty Hightower, provides that if the required Saturday, which in current Georgia law is two Saturdays before election Tuesday, falls on a holiday weekend (Thursday to Monday), then the Saturday must move back to the previous Saturday, or three Saturdays from election Tuesday.

HB 777, sponsored by Rep. Mike Dudgeon, amends the prohibition on school bus drivers using a cell phone while a bus is in motions. This bill allows for an exception for driver's using the phone in a manner similar to a two-way radio to allow for live communication between the driver and school/public safety officials. The phone issued to the driver would be locked via software to allow the phone only to communicate between the driver and dispatch.

HB 783, Sponsored by: Rep. Bruce Broadrick, is the annual update legislation that adds all newly FDA-approved drugs into Georgia Code under the classification as "dangerous drugs." Dangerous drugs simply refers to medications that are available only by prescription from a licensed health care professional or the purchase of which is restricted to licensed health care professionals. Furthermore, this bill adds newly identified synthetic drugs to the list of controlled substances defined under Georgia Code. It should be noted that "kratom" is not included in this updated list of synthetic drugs. As it stands, the GBI crime lab will continue to monitor kratom and will take action if necessary in the future to control its possession. Currently, the FDA has issued an alert on kratom allowing it to detain shipments into the country, while the DEA states the drug can addictive and abused.

HB 826, sponsored by Rep. Betty Price, allows the Georgia Composite Medical Board to take disciplinary action against a physician who falsely advertises himself or herself as board certified physician.

HB 847, Sponsored by: Rep. David Clark, updates the language in Code regarding fraud in obtaining public assistance and moves the sections criminalizing fraud in obtaining

public assistance from Title 49 (concerning Social Services) to Title 16 (concerning Crimes and Offenses).

HB 876, Sponsored by: Rep. Clay Pirkle, revises Code section regarding livestock dealers and auctions with updated language on what defines a "livestock dealer" and "surety" or a letter of credit, certificate of deposit, or other written instrument guaranteeing the faithful execution of a contract of purchase. This bill also updates the license and surety requirements for livestock dealers and livestock market operators to allow the Georgia Department of Agriculture to charge a \$25 annual fee for livestock dealers as well as an annual fee for livestock market operators proportional to the surety required. The operators fee will not exceed \$200. HB 876 maintains current penalties and exemptions for who must register as a dealer.

HB 879, Sponsored by: Rep. Tom Taylor, establishes the "Georgia Seal of Biliteracy" to recognize high school graduates who attain a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. The bill also provides criteria for proving biliteracy and record-keeping requirements for school systems participating in the program. The Department of Education will prepare and deliver an appropriate insignia to participating local school systems to affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating the pupil earned the Seal of Biliteracy.

HB 927 - or the Appellate Jurisdiction Reform Act of 2016 - ,Sponsored by: Rep. Christian Coomer, updates the jurisdiction of the Georgia Supreme Court so that it no longer has jurisdiction over matters such as divorce cases and wills. Specifically, this bill amends Title 15 relating to certiorari and appeals to appellate courts, receivership power and procedures extraordinary writs, elections and primaries, recordation and registration of deeds, and proceedings to determine county entitled to return and payment. In addition, HB 927 incorporates Rep. Pak's HB 741 which revises the calendar dates for the Supreme Court's session terms. The terms are the first Monday in December through March 31st, the first Monday in April through July 17, and the first Monday in August through November 18th.